

## **HOT SHEET**

### **Friday, July 1, 2005**

NOTE TO EDITORS: This is the final day of competition at the 25<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games—the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. Today, see the finals in power soccer, basketball, slalom “Super G”, softball and quad rugby. Top VA and PVA officials will attend tonight’s Closing Ceremony, along with the athletes, families, staff, volunteers and guests. **Actress Bo Derek**, National Honorary Chairperson of VA’s National Rehabilitation Special Events, will visit the athletes this last day of activities. For media information or final interview requests, please call the National Veterans Wheelchair Games Media Center (at the Convention Center), at (612) 335-6668 or 335-6669. For final updates, visit the Games web site at [www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org).

### **HANDCYCLING**

**8:00 am**

**Lake Harriett**

Handcycling allows wheelchair users to cycle, using a sit-down 3-wheel cycle with hand pedals. The 5K race is timed, run on an asymmetrical course designed to measure both speed and endurance. An open classification, all athletes compete at once.

### **ARCHERY**

**8:00 am**

**Ft. Snelling Soccer Fields**

Competition includes rounds in Recurve Bow and Compound Bow, and all equipment conforms to Wheelchair Sports USA Archery rules. Competitive rounds consist of six ends at 50 meters, and six ends at 30 meters. “Going for the gold” in archery literally mean hitting the gold-colored bullseye! A popular wheelchair sport.

### **\*SOFTBALL (GAMES 5 & 6 and the FINALS)**

**8:00 & 10:00 am**

**Convention Center, Halls B+C**

Softball at the Wheelchair Games follows the same rules of official 16-inch, slow-pitch softball except that it is played on a hard surface to accommodate wheelchair movement. Most players use their bare hands rather than softball gloves or mitts. A spirited team event, with good opportunities for participant interviews. The final four teams will be playing for the gold, silver, and bronze medals today, with the Consolation and Championship Games beginning at 10:00 am. **Celebrate America’s true “All Stars” today!**

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**MOTOR WHEELCHAIR RALLY**

**9:00 am**  
**Como Park**

An event for competitors using power wheelchairs, several components to the rally include a quiz and poker hand. Each competitor receives a map, instructions and check card at the start. Questions are asked at 10 checkpoints and participants receive a point for each correct answer. One poker card is given at five of the checkpoints. Each competitor gets up to 10 points for the hand received. **A spirited event, where quiz questions often pertain to the host city of the Games. See how much our athletes know about Minneapolis!**

**\*POWER SOCCER (FINALS)**

**3:00 pm**  
**Convention Center, Hall C**

The newest medal event, power soccer is a unique, competitive sport for motorized wheelchair users, played on a basketball size court by two 4-member teams (one member as goalie) using a large rubberized ball. The objective is to maneuver the ball across the opponent's goal line – and to keep them from doing the same. **Great action at today's Championship Game!**

**\*SLALOM “SUPER G” (FINALS)**

**9:00 am**  
**Convention Center, Hall B**

**This amazing event features the *best of the best* at wheelchair slalom, competing in the toughest course yet!** Winners from earlier slalom events test their mettle even further at this one. Watch these slalom superstars maneuver their way around the steepest ramps and sharpest curves. (Ever see a wheelchair climb stairs?) Sure to be high-energy *and* high-emotion, with lots of spectator involvement! **If you see nothing else, don't miss this event!**

**\*QUAD RUGBY (FINALS)**

**1:00 pm**  
**Convention Center, Hall C**

Quad Rugby is a unique, tough, competitive contact sport especially developed for quadriplegics. It is played on a basketball court by four-member teams. Unique to wheelchairs, this is an interesting event for the sports-viewing public and fun to watch. Rough and tumble, high-action, great action photo and interview opportunities. **Lots of emotion in the final rounds today. Medals will be awarded after the last game.**

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**\*BASKETBALL (FINALS)**

**1:00 & 3:00 pm**

**Convention Center, Hall C**

The rules for wheelchair basketball are essentially the same as rules of the NCAA—with the wheelchair considered part of the player's body in determining physical contact fouls. Three levels of player classification are used to achieve team balance, and players are allowed two pushes between dribbles. This is a fast and furious competition. Don't let the wheelchairs fool you—this is hard-core, spirited, exciting basketball, with lots of crashing, colliding wheelchairs. **The Consolation Game begins at 1:00 pm. The Championship Game will follow at 3:00 pm. Medals will be awarded directly afterward.**

**\*CLOSING CEREMONIES & BANQUET**

**7:00 pm**

**Convention Center, Hall D**

Top VA and PVA leaders address the athletes at tonight's closing event including VA Deputy Secretary Gordon Mansfield and PVA Executive Director Delatorro McNeal. Local competitors and officials from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, this year's host, will hand over the torch to representatives of the Alaska VA Healthcare System and Regional Office, host of the 2006 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. One special athlete is named the 2005 "Spirit of the Games" winner, but all athletes will congratulate each other on their wins this past week and wish each other well until they meet again next year. An inspiring video highlighting this past week at the Wheelchair Games in Minneapolis will close out the evening.

***\*All events on Friday provide excellent photo and final interview opportunities!***

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